GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2790
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Sports Infrastructue
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that rural and differently abled athletes face tremendous difficulties in representing the country in various sports specially in terms of lack of infrastructure to suit their needs and if so, the steps taken to address this issue;
(b) the details of allocation and utilization of funds for development of infrastructure for rural and disabled athletes during the last three years, State and sportswise; and
(c) the details of schemes and programmes run to promote sports among rural and differently abled athletes including financial assistance given along with the details of funds spent and beneficiaries under these schemes during the said period, State and sports-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) to (c) "Sports" is a State subject. The primary responsibility for development and promotion of sports including creation of sports infrastructure for both rural and differently-abled athletes rests with the State Governments. Government of India only supplements the efforts of State Governments towards this end.
However, for developing sports infrastructure at Village and Block Panchayats, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implemented Panchatat Yuva Krida and Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) Scheme from 2008-2009 to 2013-14.
The State-wise and year-wise details of funds released to States/UTs for development of infrastructure under PYKKA Scheme during 2008-09 to 2013-14 are at Annexure-I. The PYKKA Scheme was restructured as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) w.e.f. 01.04.2014 which provides for construction of an integrated sports complex in each block of the country both for outdoor and indoor sports disciplines. The Ministry is also implementing Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) for developing sports infrastructure such as synthetic athletic track, artificial tracks for hockey and football and construction of Multipurpose hall. Details of funds placed under USIS from 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in Annexure- II.
In the meantime, it has been decided to restructure and merge a number of schemes including the RGKA and USIS, into one Central Sector Scheme to address provision of infrastructure.
In the past, complaints were received about lack of basic minimum facilities to athletes, including para-athletes during the various championships/tournaments. The primary responsibility for organizing the events rests with the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and their affiliated units. Therefore, all NSFs were directed on 23.04.2015, to adopt various measures while organizing tournaments, namely the tournaments/championship should be held in such stadia/indoor halls, etc., which are easily accessible to the athletes and in case the event is for differently-abled athletes, the facilities should be disabled-friendly, provision of neat and clean toilets, including disabled-friendly toilets, etc.
The following Schemes are being implemented by the Department of Sports for promotion of sports among differently-abled sportspersons :
i. Scheme of assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) :
Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to NSFs for organizing National/International events in India, participation of India in International events, organizing coaching camps, procuring
sports equipment, etc. Para sports, Deaf Sports, and Sports for Children with Special Needs, have been put in the 'priority' category so that the athletes get substantial financial assistance under the Scheme. Details of financial assistance provided to NSFs: All India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi; Paralympic Committee of India, Bengaluru; and Special Olympic Bharat, New Delhi during the last three years are given in Annexure − III.
ii. Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons :
Under the Scheme, Indian sportspersons of the age of 30 years and above, who have won gold, silver and bronze medals in paralympic games, are eligible for life pension after their retirement from active sports.
iii. Scheme of Special awards to medal winners in international sports events
Winners of medals in paralympic games, para-events in Commonwealth Games, Para-Asian Games are eligible for special awards at par with medal winners of Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth Games.
iv. Recognition by way of conferment of Arjuna Awards :
Arjuna Awards are conferred on sportspersons in recognition of their good performance in International sports events. The Scheme provides at least one such award exclusively for physically challenged sportspersons.
v. Scheme of Sports and Games for the disabled :
The Scheme has provision for giving grants for purchase of consumables and non-consumable sports equipment for schools, training of coaches, and holding District, State and National level competitions for the disabled.
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